

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 064384

R 251528Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PO

SUBJECT: GOP'S POLITICAL ORGANIZATION BEGINS

TO ANNOUNCE ITS CANDIDATES: CONSERVATIVES PREDOMINATE THUS FAR

REF: LISBON 1654

SUMMARY: GOP'S POLITICAL MOVEMENT ANP HAS REVEALED NAMES OF 40 PERCENT OF ITS CANDIDATES FOR FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION. SOME PROMINENT FIGURES, INCLUDING LIBERALS, HAVE BEEN DROPPED; MANY WELL-KNOWN CONSERVATIVES HAVE BEEN PUT FORTH. THREE MINISTERS AND ONE JUNIOR MINISTER ARE AMONG CANDIDATES. END SUMMARY

1. OVER PAST WEEKEND, ACCAO NACIONAL POPULAR (ANP), ANNOUNCED ITS CANDIDATES FOR OCTOBER 28 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION FOR 11 METROPOLITAN AND 5 OVERSEAS ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. IN GENERAL THESE ARE AMONG THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SMALLER DISTRICTS; LISBON, OPORTO, MOZAMBIQUE, AND

ANGOLA DISTRICTS' CANDIDATES NOT YET NAMED.

2. OF THE 61 CANDIDATES NAMED THUS FAR, ONLY 26 ARE INCUMBENTS. AMONG THOSE NOMINATED THIS TIME ARE SEVERAL WHO HAD SERVED IN ASSEMBLY UNDER SALAZAR BUT WERE DUMPED BY CAETANO IN 1969. LIST INCLUDES TWO MINISTERS WHO WERE ELECTED TO ASSEMBLY LAST TIME, MANUEL COTTA DIAS (FINANCE) AND GONCALVES RAPAZOTE (INTERIOR), AS WELL AS HEALTH/WELFARE MINISTER REBELLO DE SOUSA AND SEC STATE FOR LABOR SILVA PINTO.

3. FRANCISCO PINTO BALSEMAO AND TOMAS OLIVEIRA DIAS, OUTSPOKEN MEMBERS OF LAST ASSEMBLY'S "LIBERAL WING," HAVE BEEN DROPPED. LONG-TIME GOVERNMENT CHIEFTAIN IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL, CAMILO DE MENDONCA, AND PUBLISHER MANUEL HOMEN DE MELLO, ERSTWHILE LIBERAL, BOTH PROMINENT DEPUTIES IN LAST ASSEMBLY, HAVE NOT YET BEEN NOMINATED.

4. SEVERAL PROMINENT CONSERVATIVES ARE ON LISTS DRAWN UP THUS FAR. AMONG THESE ARE ALBINO DOS REIS, 84, SALAZARIST MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF STATE WHOM CAETANO REMOVED FROM ANP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR; HENRIQUE TENREIRO, FRIEND OF PRESIDENT THOMAZ AND HEAD OF PORTUGUESE LEGION; INTERIOR MINISTER RAPAZOTE; AND ANTONIO MEIRELES CAMPOS, WHO WAS NOMINATED BY ANTI-GOVERNMENT RIGHT WING SLATE IN 1969 BUT PULLED OUT AT LAST MINUTE.

5. AMP'S LISTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE NOW COMPLETE, WILL BE ANNOUNCED PIECEMEAL. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MANY, PERHAPS 1/3, OF MEMBERS OF CABINET, WILL BE CANDIDATES. (SOME MAY LEAVE CABINET AFTER THE ELECTION; CABINET MEMBERS DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN WORK OF ASSEMBLY, ALTHOUGH THEY RETAIN THEIR SEATS.) RIGHT WING LEADER FRANCO NOGUEIRA, SALAZAR'S FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE 60'S, WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LAST ASSEMBLY, SAID TO BE AMONG THOSE DROPPED THIS TIME AROUND. JOAO MOTA AMARAL, AZORIAN MEMBER OF LIBERAL WING IN LAST ASSEMBLY, HAS TOLD EMBOFF HE IS ONLY SURVIVING LIBERAL. BEFORE AGREEING TO RUN, MOTA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMARAL SAID HE TOLD CAETANO HE WOULD ACCEPT NOMINATION PROVIDED HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO JOIN ANP AND COULD HIMSELF NAME OTHER TWO CANDIDATES FROM HIS DISTRICT. CAETANO SURPRISED THE DEPUTY BY AGREEING TO THESE CONDITIONS. IN ADDITION MOTA AMARAL RECEIVED POLITICAL WINDFALL WHEN HOSTILE ANP CHAIRMAN IN HIS DISTRICT WAS REPLACE BY LONG-TIME FRIEND.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT WILL AWAIT DISCLOSURE OF ALL
CANDIDATES.
POST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LISBON03512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730913/aaaaajak.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 1654
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP'S POLITICAL ORGANIZATION BEGINS TO ANNOUNCE ITS CANDIDATES: CONSERVATIVES PREDOMINATE THUS FAR
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005